GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:407
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2007
SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS IN ARMED FORCES
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of officers in the Armed Forces of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Force-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to fill the vacant posts in the Armed Forces?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 407 FOR ANSWER ON 3.5.2007

Presently there is a total shortage of 14165 officers in the Armed Forces. The Army has a shortage of 11238 officers, whereas the Navy and the Air Force have a shortage of 1399 and 1528 officers respectively. The details of the shortage of officers in the Armed Forces are as follows:

	Army	Navy	Air Force
Authorised strength	46615	8821	12118
Positioned strength	35377	7422	10590
Shortage	11238	1399	1528

Several steps have been taken by the three Services to fill up the vacant posts. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) have been made eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel and equivalents after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC Officers has been extended to 14 years in the three Services.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.